

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



**FISCAL NOTE**

**HB 270 - SB 1217**

February 14, 2023

**SUMMARY OF BILL:** Establishes that a student may be promoted to the third grade if the student is determined to be proficient in reading based on the student's achieving the reading proficiency level score required by the Department of Education (DOE) on each Tennessee universal reading screener administered to the student in the student's third grade year. Requires DOE to provide local education agencies (LEAs) and public charter schools serving students in any of the grades kindergarten through three (K-3) with the reading proficiency level scores for the Tennessee universal reading screener and each universal reading screener approved by the State Board of Education (SBE).

**FISCAL IMPACT:**

**NOT SIGNIFICANT**

Assumptions:

- The current third grade retention law takes effect at the end of the 2022-23 school year and requires a student in the third grade to not be promoted to the next grade level unless the student is determined to be proficient in English language arts (ELA) based on the student's achieving a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent Tennessee Comprehensive Assessment Program (TCAP) test.
- The proposed legislation creates another pathway for a student to be promoted, even if the student does not achieve a performance level rating of "on track" or "mastered" on the ELA portion of the student's most recent (TCAP) test.
- DOE will be required to update retention guidance documents and communicate with districts on the changes to retention law.
- SBE will be required to revise the appeal process for 3<sup>rd</sup> grade retention.
- Additional standardization requirements would have to be implemented to transition the universal reading screener to a high-stakes assessment. This shift would also require LEAs to add secure test administration protocols.
- DOE, SBE, and LEAs will be able to comply with the proposed legislation within existing resources. Any fiscal impact is estimated to be not significant.

**CERTIFICATION:**

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Krista Lee Carsner". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Krista Lee Carsner, Executive Director

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